

## Claims

We claim:

1. A method for generating a media control user interface, comprising the steps of:

displaying controls indicating current search criteria in a display area;

simultaneously displaying on said display area results of a search defined by said search criteria;

simultaneously displaying at least one current task to be performed with respect to selected ones of said results and indicating said selected ones;

simultaneously permitting access to controls to modify at least one of said search criteria, said at least one current task, and said selected ones.

2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of simultaneously displaying controls to modify said at least one of said search criteria, said at least one current task, and said selected ones.

3. A method for generating a media control user interface, comprising the steps of:

displaying an indication of search controls indicating current search criteria in a display area;

simultaneously displaying on said display area an indication of results of a search defined by said search criteria;

simultaneously displaying an indication of task controls and an indication of at least one current task to be performed with respect to selected ones of said results and an indication of said selected ones;

permitting a user to access said search controls and said task controls;

selectively displaying at least one of said results, currently selected search criteria, and said at least one current task responsively to commands from a user.

4. A method as in claim 3, further comprising, immediately updating said results list responsively to current settings of said search controls.

5. A method as in claim 3, further comprising, immediately updating said indication of at least one current task responsively to modification of said task controls.

6. A method as in claim 5, further comprising, immediately updating said results list responsively to current settings of said search controls.

7. A user interface for controlling tasks relating to media or other searchable data objects, comprising:

a display generator configured to simultaneously indicate a current search criteria set, results set, and task set;

said task set indicating a subset of the results on which a currently selected task is to be performed;

each of said search criteria, results, and task sets being, or a place-holder therefor, being simultaneously displayed;

said place-holder being activatable responsive to control commands.

8. A user interface, wherein said task set provides at least one of recording music on a CD, recording video on a DVD, storing video on a tape, playing music, emailing a media file such as a video or musical recording, printing and erasing a file.